

House Resolution No. 679

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens; and

Whereas, the members now pause to recognize Bill Arnold, of Hermitage, Missouri, who has distinguished himself as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Hickory County, Missouri; and

Whereas, Bill Arnold began his VISTA experience at the Hickory County Library in 2002, where he had already been volunteering for about a year as a tutor and reader at story time; and

Whereas, Bill Arnold established after-school programs to get children and their parents involved with reading, and these programs blossomed into many wonderful activities: storytellers, historic re-enactments, puppet shows, and magicians, to name a few; and

Whereas, to encourage literacy at an early age, Bill Arnold arranged sponsorship of local versions of national literacy contests, like Reading Rainbow and Letters about Literature; and

Whereas, Bill Arnold held fund-raisers and donated books were given away at each and every opportunity, and each year more than three hundred books were given away to young readers, and the circulation at Hickory County Library improved; and

Whereas, as a result of Bill Arnold's efforts as a VISTA volunteer, the Tri-County Literary Council was born with the goals of providing up-to-date literacy tutoring for adults, families, and those learning English as a second language; and

Whereas, AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty, and VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than forty years; and

Whereas, VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a non-profit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and more, and with passion, commitment, and hard work, they create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere gratitude to Bill Arnold for the invaluable service he has so generously given to the citizen of Hickory County; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Bill Arnold, as a measure of our esteem.

Offered by _____
Representative Larry D. Wilson
District No. 119

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 679, adopted February 18, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker